

### Knowing Your Responsibilities

Ensuring the health and safety of girls in Girl Scouting is a cornerstone of the Girl Scout Movement. This includes developing safety consciousness in both girls and adults, as well as training staff, volunteers, and girls to ensure proper supervision is taking place, planning to prevent accidents and incidents from occurring, and maintenance of viable program resources.

Everyone bears responsibility for safety: the council, the troop leadership, the parents/guardians of the girls and the girls themselves. The point of all safety resources produced by Girl Scouts of the USA and GSNorCal is to establish a sound program experience that will protect and maintain the well-being of every Girl Scout, and protect the legal interests of the adults.

#### Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

Engage each parent or guardian to help you work toward ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of girls. Clearly communicate to parents and guardians that they are expected to:

- Provide permission for their daughters to participate in Girl Scouting as well as provide additional consent for activities that take place outside the scheduled meeting place. This can include such activities such as:
  - product program, including Digital Cookie
  - overnight travel
  - the use of special equipment
  - discussing sensitive issues [[SAFETY-WISE: Be Prepared- Carry Forms with You](#)]
- Provide you with an accurate and updated Health History form every year. This is especially important should an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or healthcare provider is required to administer care at the scene of an accident.
- Make provisions for their daughters to get to and from meeting places or other designated sites in a safe and timely manner, and to inform you if someone other than the parent or guardian will drop off or pick up the child.
- Provide their daughters with appropriate clothing and equipment for activities, or contact you before the activity to find sources for the necessary clothing and equipment.
- Follow [Girl Scout Safety Guidelines](#) and encourage their children to do the same. [[SAFETY-WISE: Girl Scout Safety Guidelines](#)]
- Assist you in planning and carrying out program activities as safely as possible.
- Participate in parent/guardian meetings.
- Be aware of appropriate behavior expected of their daughters as determined by the council and you.
- Assist volunteers if their daughters have special needs or abilities and their help is solicited.

## **Responsibilities of Girls**

Girls who learn about and practice safe and healthy behaviors are likely to establish lifelong habits of safety consciousness. For that reason, each Girl Scout is expected to:

- Assist you and other volunteers in safety planning.
- Listen to and follow your instructions and suggestions.
- Learn and practice safety skills.
- Learn to “think safety” at all times and to be prepared.
- Identify and evaluate an unsafe situation.
- Know how, when, and where to get help when needed.

In addition, girls can be taught the following skills over time to help them to develop healthy habits for safety:

- Brainstorm possible hazards or potential situations, and discuss how each situation should be handled.
- Agree to safe boundaries (where they can and cannot go) and other expectations for each activity.
- Older girls can be encouraged to consult [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) when planning activities (but adults still carry primary responsibility to make sure these are followed).